

**SECRET**

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REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF COVERT ACTION

Although covert action was brought under much tighter internal and external control during the past year, we need to keep this process under continuing review. It is our belief that the review and approval procedures can be improved. Any consideration of additional steps that might be adopted should be undertaken with the following requirements in mind.

- Foreign policy objectives to be served must be clearly stated.
- Political risks and foreign policy options other than covert action must be carefully assessed.
- Intelligence assessments underlying covert action proposals must be complete and objective.
- To minimize the hasty conception of a covert action program to meet a crisis situation, provision should be made for contingency forward planning for covert action that would anticipate foreign policy problems susceptible to covert action.
- Internal CIA and NSC/SCC review must reflect well documented policy and intelligence assessment as described above.
- To avoid hostile Congressional action, special consideration should be given to the timing of notification to Congressional committees.

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MEMORANDUM FOR: ADCI

Hank,

You requested this paper with the thought that you might use it (pass it out) at the SCC meeting, now postponed to February 24. The postponement will give you a chance to study this and decide whether and how you want to use it.

  
A/DDCI

Date 9 February 1977

FORM 5-75 101 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

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